

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1946

Introduced by Assembly Member Chesbro

February 19, 2014

An act to amend Section 42285 of the Education Code, relating to school finance.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1946, as introduced, Chesbro. School finance: necessary small high schools.

Existing law establishes a public school financing system that requires state funding for county superintendents of schools, school districts, and charter schools to be calculated pursuant to a local control funding formula. As part of the local control funding formula, existing law requires a school district or charter school to receive state-aid funding of no less than the sum of certain amounts received in the 2012–13 fiscal year, including, among other amounts, the 2012–13 fiscal year funding allowance provided for qualifying necessary small elementary schools and necessary small high schools. Existing law defines a necessary small high school as either (1) a high school with an average daily attendance of less than 287 pupils that meets specified conditions, or (2) a high school maintained by a school district for the exclusive purpose of educating juvenile hall pupils or pupils with exceptional needs.

This bill would add to the definition of a necessary small high school a high school maintained by a unified school district as the only comprehensive high school if the high school has an average daily attendance of less than 300 pupils and the school district has 50 or fewer pupils per square mile of school district territory.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 42285 of the Education Code is amended
2 to read:
3 42285. (a) For purposes of Section 42284, a necessary small
4 high school is a high school with an average daily attendance of
5 less than 287 *pupils* that comes within any of the following
6 conditions:
7 (1) The projection of its future enrollment on the basis of the
8 enrollment of the elementary schools in the school district shows
9 that within eight years the enrollment in high school in grades 9
10 to 12, inclusive, will exceed 286 pupils.
11 (2) Any one of the following combinations of distance and units
12 of average daily attendance applies:
13 (A) The high school had an average daily attendance of less
14 than 96 *pupils* in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, during the preceding
15 fiscal year and is more than 15 miles by well-traveled road from
16 the nearest other public high school and either 90 percent of the
17 pupils would be required to travel 20 miles or 25 percent of the
18 pupils would be required to travel 30 miles one way from a point
19 on a well-traveled road nearest their homes to the nearest other
20 public high school.
21 (B) The high school had an average daily attendance of 96 *pupils*
22 or more and less than 144 *pupils* in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, during
23 the preceding fiscal year and is more than 10 miles by well-traveled
24 road from the nearest other public high school and either 90 percent
25 of the pupils would be required to travel 18 miles or 25 percent of
26 the pupils would be required to travel 25 miles one way from a
27 point on a well-traveled road nearest their homes to the nearest
28 other public high school.
29 (C) The high school had an average daily attendance of 144
30 *pupils* or more and less than 192 *pupils* in grades 9 to 12, inclusive,
31 during the preceding fiscal year and is more than 7½ miles by
32 well-traveled road from the nearest other public high school and
33 either 90 percent of the pupils would be required to travel 15 miles
34 or 25 percent of the pupils would be required to travel 20 miles

1 one way from a point on a well-traveled road nearest their homes
2 to the nearest other public high school.

3 (D) The high school had an average daily attendance of 192
4 *pupils* or more and less than 287 *pupils* in grades 9 to 12, inclusive,
5 during the preceding fiscal year and is more than 5 miles by
6 well-traveled road from the nearest other public high school and
7 either 90 percent of the pupils would be required to travel 10 miles
8 or 25 percent of the pupils would be required to travel 15 miles to
9 the nearest other public high school.

10 (3) Topographical or other conditions exist in the school district
11 which would impose unusual hardships on the pupils if the number
12 of miles specified ~~above~~ *in paragraph (2)* were required to be
13 traveled. In these cases, the Superintendent may, when requested,
14 and after investigation, grant exceptions from the distance
15 requirements.

16 (4) The Superintendent has approved the recommendation of a
17 county committee on school district organization designating one
18 of two or more schools as necessary isolated schools in a situation
19 where the schools are operated by two or more school districts and
20 the average daily attendance of each of the schools is less than 287
21 *pupils* in grades 9 to 12, inclusive.

22 (b) For purposes of Section 42284, a necessary small high school
23 also includes ~~a high school maintained by a school district for the~~
24 ~~exclusive purpose of educating juvenile hall pupils or pupils with~~
25 ~~exceptional needs; either of the following:~~

26 (1) *A high school maintained by a school district for the*
27 *exclusive purpose of educating juvenile hall pupils or pupils with*
28 *exceptional needs.*

29 (2) *A high school maintained by a unified school district as the*
30 *only comprehensive high school if the high school has an average*
31 *daily attendance of less than 300 pupils and the school district*
32 *has 50 or fewer pupils per square mile of school district territory.*

33 (c) For purposes of Section 42284, a necessary small high school
34 does not include a continuation school.

35 (d) For purposes of this section, “other public high school” is
36 a public school, including a charter school, that serves any of
37 grades 9 to 12, inclusive.